



LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

630 Camp Street, New Orleans, LA 70130
Phone: (504) 568-6820; Fax: (504) 599-0503
Website: <http://www.lsbme.la.gov>

Many practitioners have asked the Board for guidance regarding the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals' (LDH) Directive to postpone "any and all medical and surgical procedures that, in the medical opinion and judgment of the physician or other appropriate healthcare professional acting within the scope of his/her license, can be safely postponed" until April 21, 2020.

A list of examples is not helpful because inevitably we cannot address every possibility. A procedure that might be safely postponed for one patient, might not be safely postponed for another patient depending on that patient's condition or co-morbidities. The Board recognizes that this determination requires an exercise of medical judgment. We ask that each licensee follow his/her medical education, knowledge, training, and experience, in his/her respective specialty and profession, within the scope of their respective licenses, to determine whether it is safe to postpone the medical or surgical procedure.

The LDH Directive was issued to conserve resources, personal protective equipment (PPE), and prevent personnel, patients, and family from infection with COVID19. Even our waiting rooms are potential sources of infections for our healthy patients.

Ask yourself: would the delay in care in this patient be harmful to their health?

If you proceed with a medical or surgical procedure, we suggest that you clearly document the justification and support (for instance, cite the supportive best practices, guidelines, standard of care and/or literature) for a procedure taking place within the scope of the LDH Directive.